

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

List of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A disposable diaper comprising a fluid-permeable topsheet, a fluid-impermeable backsheet and a fluid-retentive absorbent core interposed between said topsheet and said backsheet, said disposable diaper being formed in a substantially vertically elongated configuration and having a stomach side, a back side and a crotch region positioned between said stomach side and said back side, ~~wherein and~~

~~a second absorbent core is~~ lateral absorbent cores disposed at an outside region of ~~each~~ the opposite side ~~edge~~ edges of said absorbent core at said crotch region along a longitudinal direction of said diaper; and

~~an elastic member is disposed at the region where said second~~ elastic members disposed below said lateral absorbent ~~core is~~ disposed along a cores along the longitudinal direction of said diaper.

2. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper according to claim 1, wherein ~~a second~~ additional elastic ~~member is~~ members are disposed at an outside region of the region where said ~~second~~ lateral absorbent ~~core is disposed~~ cores are disposed, in a

widthwise direction of said disposable diaper, ~~along a~~ along said longitudinal direction of said diaper.

3. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper according to claim 2, which includes an edge flap portion having no absorbent core disposed ~~thereon~~ therein, said edge flap portion being disposed ~~at an~~ at said outer region of the region where said ~~second~~ lateral absorbent ~~core is~~ cores are disposed, said ~~second elastic member is~~ elastic members being disposed at said edge flap portion, the shrinkage ~~a shrinkage~~ of said edge flap portion in a longitudinal direction ~~is larger~~ being larger than that of said leg absorbent portion ~~in a~~ in the longitudinal direction where said second absorbent core is disposed and both of said leg absorbent portions are, in natural states of said diaper protuberantly curved inward in a widthwise direction of said diaper.

4. (Original) The disposable diaper according to claim 1, wherein a leg portion elastic member is disposed at a leg flap portion in a longitudinal direction of said diaper, said leg flap portion being located at an outside area of each side edge in a longitudinal direction of said absorbent core,

a ratio (L4/L5) between a smallest width L4 of a crotch region which occupies two inside regions of all four regions which are obtained by sectioning said disposable diaper into four equal parts

in a longitudinal direction of said diaper and a largest width L5 of said disposable diaper is from 0.4 to 0.8,

a ratio ($L6/L4$) between a shortest distance L6 between an innermost edge of said leg portion elastic member and an outermost edge of said leg flap portion and a shortest width L4 of said crotch region is from 0.1 to 0.25, and

a ratio ($L7/L8$) between a widthwise distance L7 between an outermost point of said leg flap portion and an innermost point thereof and a longitudinal length L8 of said crotch region is from 0 to 0.2.

5. (Currently Amended) The disposal diaper according to claim 1, wherein said absorbent core and said ~~second~~ lateral absorbent cores are ~~located away~~ separated from each other.

6. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper according to claim 5, wherein a weight per unit area of a region between said absorbent core and each of said ~~second~~ lateral absorbent cores is $2/3$ or smaller than a weight per unit area of the region where each of said ~~second~~ lateral absorbent cores is disposed.

7. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper according to claim 1, wherein said absorbent core and said ~~second~~ lateral absorbent cores are integrally connected with each other and segmented by an embossing line formed along the longitudinal direction of the diaper.

8. (Currently Amended and WITHDRAWN) A disposable diaper comprising a fluid-permeable topsheet, a fluid-impermeable backsheet and a fluid-retentive central absorbent core interposed between said topsheet and said backsheet, said disposable diaper being formed in a substantially vertically elongated configuration and having a stomach side, a back side and a crotch region positioned between said stomach side and said back side, wherein and

~~a second~~ lateral absorbent ~~core is~~ cores are disposed at an outside region of each opposite ~~left (or right)~~ side ~~edge~~ edges of said central absorbent core at said crotch region along a longitudinal direction of said diaper,

elastic members disposed below said lateral absorbent cores along the longitudinal direction of said diaper,

a basis weight of an absorbent core disposed at an intermediate region between said central absorbent core and each of said ~~second~~ lateral absorbent cores is smaller than a basis weight of any of said absorbent cores located at the region where said central absorbent core is disposed and at the region where each of said ~~second~~ lateral absorbent cores is disposed, and

a pair of axes of flexibility are formed on opposite side portions of said central absorbent core along a longitudinal direction.

9. (Withdrawn) The disposable diaper according to claim 8, wherein said axes of flexibility are formed at said central absorbent core at least in said crotch region.

10. (Currently Amended and WITHDRAWN) The disposable diaper according to claim 8, wherein ~~at least one elastic member is disposed along the longitudinal direction of said diaper at the region provided with each of said second absorbent core, and~~ a basis weight of said absorbent core at said intermediate region is $2/3$ or lower than a basis weight of said absorbent core at the region provided with each of said second absorbent cores.

11. (Withdrawn) The disposable diaper according to claim 10, wherein opposing edge flap portions provided with no absorbent core are formed outwardly in the widthwise direction from the regions provided with said second absorbent cores, respectively, and said edge flap portions are provided with at least one elastic member along the longitudinal direction of said diaper.

12. (Withdrawn) The disposable diaper according to claim 8, wherein said axes of flexibility are formed, respectively, at two outside regions of all four regions which are obtained by

widthwise dividing said central absorbent core into four equal parts.

13. (Withdrawn) The disposable diaper according to claim 8, wherein said axes of flexibility are formed by folding the opposite side edge portions of said central absorbent core back towards an inner surface side of said diaper along a longitudinal direction thereof and then compressing the folded back portions, and said axes of flexibility are formed over an entire length of said central absorbent core along a longitudinal direction thereof.

14. (Currently Amended and WITHDRAWN) A disposable diaper comprising a fluid-permeable topsheet, a fluid-impermeable backsheet and a fluid-retentive absorbent core interposed between said topsheet and said backsheet, said disposable diaper having a stomach side, a back side and a crotch region positioned between said stomach side and said back side, leg portion elastic members being disposed in their stretched states at a pair of leg portions disposed around the wearer's leg areas, wherein

lengthwise opposite end portions of said leg portion elastic members are located at widthwise outside areas of side edges of said absorbent core, respectively and central portions

of said leg portion elastic members are curved in such a manner as to pass a widthwise inner direction of the side edges of said absorbent core at a crotch region of the diaper.

said absorbent core at said crotch region of said diaper ~~is~~ being divided into a pair of ~~second~~ lateral absorbent cores located at widthwise outside areas of said leg portion elastic members, ~~respectively~~ respectively, and a central absorbent core located between said pair of ~~second~~ lateral absorbent cores by said pair of leg portion elastic members, and said ~~second~~ lateral absorbent cores are when in wear, being bent towards said ~~backsheet.~~ backsheet and

elastic members disposed below said lateral absorbent cores along the longitudinal direction of said diaper.

15. (Currently Amended and WITHDRAWN) The disposable diaper according to claim 14, wherein a longitudinal length of said ~~second~~ lateral absorbent cores is 1/5 to 2/3 of a longitudinal direction of said diaper.

16. (Currently Amended and WITHDRAWN) The disposable diaper according to claim 14, wherein ~~second absorbent core disposed portion~~ the elastic members are disposed ~~at a~~ at the diaper outer surface side or said ~~second~~ lateral absorbent cores

along a longitudinal direction of said ~~second~~ lateral absorbent cores, and said ~~second absorbent core disposed portion~~ elastic members are lower in elongation stress than said leg portion elastic members.

17. (Withdrawn) The disposable diaper according to claim 14, wherein leg flap side elastic members are disposed at the opposite side edge portions of said absorbent core at the crotch region of said diaper along the opposite side edges of said absorbent core, and said leg flap side elastic members are lower in elongation stress than said leg portion elastic members.

18. (Currently Amended and WITHDRAWN) The disposable diaper according to claim 14, wherein said absorbent core at the crotch region of said diaper includes a pair of lower rigidity ~~regions than the rest~~ regions, lower than the remaining regions, said pair of lower rigidity regions being located away from the opposite side edges of said absorbent core, and

said leg portion elastic members are disposed such that their central portions pass said lower rigidity regions, respectively.

19. (Currently Amended and WITHDRAWN) The disposable diaper according to claim 14, wherein the opposite side edges of

said absorbent core are covered with water-repellent side sheets, respectively, a pair of three-dimensional gathers are formed from a stomach side region to a back side region, each of said three-dimensional ~~gathers is~~ gathers being fixedly provided with a water-repellant gather forming sheet having an elastic member, said gather forming sheet and said side sheet ~~are~~ being located away from each other, and a side absorption area having a non-water-repellent surface is formed between said gather forming sheet and said side sheet.